

EXPLOSIVES AND BLASTING DIVISION

During 2001, 76 new General Blaster's Licenses were issued, and 1,173 General Licenses were renewed. In addition, 32 new Limited Blaster's Licenses were issued and 450 Limited Licenses were renewed. There were 169 General Examinations and 29 Limited Examinations given. To obtain a General or Limited Blaster's License, the applicant must pass the prescribed written examination and must have two years of practical blasting experience. Thirty-six training courses were offered at various locations throughout the Commonwealth for both initial training and prescribed re-training. These classes were attended by a total of 417 people. During this year, 83 Blaster Certification Examinations were administered under the Memorandum of Agreement with the Cabinet for Natural Resources and Environmental Protection as mandated by the Federal Office of Surface Mining for surface coal blasters.

Personnel of the Division of Explosives and Blasting

Lawrence C. Schneider, Director.....	Frankfort
Coleman England , Assistant Director.....	Burnside
Douglas Hicks, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Martin
Kenneth Payne, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Barbourville
Carlos Delgado, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Frankfort
Evan Shelby, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Madisonville
Kevin Meade, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Pikeville
Terry Dozer , Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Madisonville
Andrew Smith, Explosives & Blasting Inspector/Instructor II.....	Louisville
Sandra Thor , Administrative Specialist, III.....	Frankfort
Jeffrey Reed , Program Coordinator.....	Frankfort

The Division of Explosives and Blasting continued its program of inspection, enforcement, education, and licensing of blasters in 2001. A total of 108 new blaster's licenses were issued during the calendar year 2001. Of these 108 new licenses, 76 were general blaster's licenses, and 32 were limited blaster's licenses. As of December 31, 2001, there were 2,277 individuals holding current and valid Kentucky blaster's licenses. Of these, 1,694 were general licenses, and 583 were limited licenses.

During 2001, over 1.1 billion pounds of commercial explosives were detonated in Kentucky. This quantity represents 19.5 % of the total explosives used in the entire United States. Of this quantity used in the Commonwealth, 99.4 % of the explosives used were in the form of blasting agents or oxidizers. Approximately 1.6 % or 7.7 million pounds were high explosives.

The division conducted nine General Blaster's Training Courses and twenty-seven re-training courses throughout the Commonwealth in 2001. The General Blaster's Classes were attended by 121 people who were primarily applicants for blaster's licenses. The locations and number of attendees in these thirty hours of instruction are listed as follows:

<u>Classes</u>	<u>No. Attending</u>
Barbourville	15
Hazard	5
Hazard	12
Maysville	13
Pikeville	14
Central City	12
Central City	16
Louisville	28
Frankfort	6

These courses cover all aspects of explosives techniques and safety. The purpose of the course is to raise the competency level of the blaster's in the field as well as assist those preparing to take the blaster's examination. The public is better protected and the blaster's work environment is safer when the blaster's ability is enhanced through training.

KRS 351.315 was amended by the 2000 Kentucky Legislature and made some changes in the way a blaster's license is renewed. These provisions, which took effect on July 15, 2000 are as follows:

- (1) The blaster's license renewal will be valid for 3 years and the fee for renewal will be \$60.00 (The actual cost of renewal was unchanged, since previous renewals had been done every year for \$20.00)
- (2) Blasters are required to attend a certain amount of continuing education or training in explosives and blasting related topics in order to renew his or her license. Individuals holding a General Blaster's License must attend at least 16 hours of re-training every three years. Those with a Limited Blaster's license must attend 4 hours of

blaster re-training every 3 years.

- (3) Blasters who have a valid Surface Coal Miner's ID Card, are exempt from the blaster re-training provided they complete their annual re-training requirements as surface coal miners and submit proof of this.

Since this new law has come into effect, the Division of Explosives and Blasting has proceeded with re-training licensed blasters. The division has conducted 27 classes throughout the Commonwealth in 2001 and was attended by 296 people who were applicants for re-training. The locations and number of attendees that have been re-trained in the past year are listed as follows:

<u>Re-Training Classes</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Somerset	31
Bowling Green (3 Classes)	83
Louisville	7
Hazard (3 Classes)	20
Henderson	8
Caneyville	13
Frankfort	1
Pikeville	1
Barbourville (4 Classes)	23
Madisonville	5
Hopkinsville	3
Elizabethtown	19
Brandenburg	9
Hardinsburg	8
Maysville	6
Central City (2 Classes)	5
Glasgow	28
Mt. Sterling	8
Bardstown	18

The Division of Explosives and Blasting has eight Inspectors stationed throughout the Commonwealth to respond to complaints and perform the compliance inspections necessary to ensure that the provisions of KRS 351 and its associated regulations are followed. Each inspector is responsible for an area or region consisting of a number of counties as shown on the attached map.

The Explosives and Blasting Inspectors answer 100% of all public complaints received by this Division. These complaints primarily concern ground vibrations, noise, flyrock, and various other adverse effects of blasting. The inspector's investigation of the complaints involves inspection of the operation generating the complaint, as well as seismic monitoring. During 2001, the Division made 170 such investigations of public complaints and used the seismograph 72 times in order to resolve these complaints.

In addition, the inspectors continue to make routine checks of all blasting operations to ensure compliance with the laws and regulations governing the use of explosives. The Division inspects not only those companies using explosives, but also companies which manufacture, sell, store, and transport explosives. Forty-one companies, engaged in the sale or distribution of explosives in the Commonwealth, registered with the Division in 2001.

The Division of Explosives and Blasting reviews and issues permits to purchase or receive explosives to coal mines, quarries, construction companies and individuals. As of December 31, 2001, 814 permits to purchase explosives were issued. The explosive storage facilities and transportation methods are inspected, and a background check is conducted through the Kentucky State Police before such a permit is issued.

During the year, the Division has participated in a number of seminars sponsored by other state and federal agencies and educational institutions. It has been the aim to use every opportunity for education of the public and training of blasters in the safe use and associated hazards of explosives. A number of these seminars and conference have been accepted as approved blaster re-training classes.

The number of licensed blasters again showed a decrease this year, continuing a trend that began in 1982 when there were over 4,700 blasters licensed. This drop in the number is due to the increased use of contracted shot service crews provided by the explosive companies, the retirement of licensees who were originally grandfathered into the system, and the more stringent training, testing, and experience requirements and background checks.

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

Rick Bender, Director
 Brian C. Gilpin, Assistant Director
 Nancy Toombs, Administrative Secretary Sr
 Kimberly Collings, Well Records/Permit Reviewer
 Rob Flynn, Well Records/Permit Reviewer
 Gina Cavender, Office Supervisor
 Terri Eversole, Secretary III¹
 Rebecca Hardin, Secretary III²

FIELD PERSONNEL

Cy Britt, Area Supervisor	Madisonville
Jerry Gray, Area Supervisor	Horse Cave
Marvin Combs, Area Supervisor	Hazard
Curtis Hardison, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	Greenville
Johnny Tooley, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	Tompkinsville
Robert Yates, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	Columbia
James W. Hazel, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	Owensboro
Michael Burnett, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	Beattyville
Edward Combs, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	Dixon
Jack Deskins, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr ³	Pikeville
Jerry Finley, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	London
Kerry Morgan, Oil and Gas Inspector Sr	Essie
Doug Hamilton, Oil and Gas Inspector	Wittensville
Greg Welsh, Oil and Gas Inspector	Beaver Dam
Rick Parrish, Oil and Gas Inspector	Albany
Ron Norris, Oil and Gas Inspector ⁴	Glasgow
Dean Cornett, Oil and Gas Inspector ⁵	Prestonsburg

-
1. Appointed 2-16-01
 2. Appointed 3-16-01
 3. Retired 8-01-01
 4. Appointed 4-01-01
 5. Appointed 10-01-01

OIL AND GAS DIVISION

At the close of 2001, the Oil and Gas Division had 13 field inspectors, 3 field supervisors and 8 employees on its administrative staff.

The Division staff operates a customized Microsoft Sequel Server database on an in-house server. We have developed well history data for each well that can be utilized daily. At present, there were 86,500 wells stored on-line for which we have data relative to the permit, operator, well location, pertinent dates and well completion.

PERMITTING AND WELL TRANSFERS

During the year, the Division issued 1323 new permits primarily for new wells, but also includes permits for the deepening or reopening of existing wells. The top five counties receiving the most permits are in descending order as follows: Pike, Clinton, Letcher, Meade, and Hart. These counties accounted for 37% of the permits issued. Oil and gas operators transferred wells from one operator to another for a total of 1121 wells. There were 317 new bonds posted totaling \$793,500.00. A total of \$242,500.00 was released as a result of proper abandonment or transfer to a successor operator.

Available to the public is a weekly publication of permits issued identifying the permit number, operator name, farm name, county, Carter Coordinates, and target formation. This publication may be obtained on the Internet at the Division Web page: <http://www.caer.uky.edu/kdmm/ong.htm>.

COMPLIANCE AND FORFEITURES

The Division inspectors conducted 2650 inspections throughout 2001, which resulted in 587 violations. Of these, 194 were corrected and cleared, 98 were forfeited, and the remaining is in a pending status of either having been granted an extension, or in the process of

forfeiture. The amount of forfeited bonds was \$131,500.00. The Division plugged 126 abandoned wells with funds from the abandoned well plugging fund for a total of \$265,811.42. This resulted in an average plugging cost for the year of \$2,109.61 per well.

2001 CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

-GENERAL-

Statistical summaries of the oil and gas activities in Kentucky are as follows:

New Permits Issued	1323
Oil Wells Completed	93
Gas Wells Completed	482
Combination Oil and Gas	6
Misc. Service Wells Completed	7
Oil Wells Reported Plugged	323
Gas Wells Reported Plugged	90
Combination Oil and Gas Wells	12
Plugged	
Misc. Service Wells Plugged	13
Dry Holes Plugged	131
Total Wells Plugged	569
Wells Reported Plugged With No	0
Known Completion	

STATUS OF KENTUCKY OIL AND GAS WELLS (12-31-01)

	Oil	Gas	Comb.	Service	Totals
Total Producing Wells on 1/1/01	29,291	14,870	573	2,387	47,121
New Wells Added in 2001	93	482	6	7	588
Existing Wells Added in 2001	38	102	2	(1)	141
Less Wells Plugged in 2001	323	90	12	13	438
New Totals 12/31/01	29,09	15,36	569	2,380	47,41

Discrepancies from previous year reports are due to reclassification by inspections and addition of existing wells to database.

<p align="center">SUMMARY BY COUNTY OF PERMITS ISSUED TO DRILL JANUARY 1 - DECEMBER 31, 2001</p>

County	Permitted	Plugged	County	Permitted	Plugged
Adair	15	8	Gallatin	0	0
Allen	0	9	Garrard	0	0
Anderson	0	0	Grant	0	0
Ballard	0	0	Graves	0	0
Barren	2	12	Grayson	11	0
Bath	0	0	Green	1	1
Bell	25	0	Greenup	0	0
Boone	0	0	Hancock	5	0
Bourbon	0	0	Hardin	0	2
Boyd	0	0	Harlan	54	0
Boyle	0	0	Harrison	0	0
Bracken	0	0	Hart	59	1
Breathitt	4	1	Henderson	18	2
Breckinridge	10	0	Henry	0	0
Bullitt	0	0	Hickman	0	0
Butler	3	0	Hopkins	3	0
Caldwell	16	0	Jackson	0	0
Calloway	0	0	Jefferson	0	0
Campbell	0	0	Jessamine	0	0
Carlisle	0	0	Johnson	20	4
Carroll	0	0	Kenton	0	0
Carter	1	2	Knott	48	0
Casey	0	8	Knox	42	2
Christian	12	0	Larue	4	0
Clark	0	0	Laurel	0	0
Clay	45	11	Lawrence	30	0
Clinton	155	19	Lee	3	11
Crittenden	0	0	Leslie	10	0
Cumberland	54	0	Letcher	61	0
Daviess	17	5	Lewis	0	0
Edmonson	6	0	Lincoln	13	0
Elliott	8	0	Livingston	0	0
Estill	0	0	Logan	1	0
Fayette	0	0	Lyon	0	0
Fleming	0	0	McCracken	0	0
Floyd	51	2	McCreary	20	0
Franklin	0	0	McLean	7	1
Fulton	0	0	Madison	0	0
County	Permitted	Plugged	County	Permitted	Plugged

Magoffin	31	1	Powell	0	0
Marion	0	0	Pulaski	7	0
Marshall	0	0	Robertson	0	0
Martin	40	0	Rockcastle	0	0
Mason	0	0	Rowan	0	0
Meade	60	0	Russell	3	2
Menifee	0	0	Scott	0	0
Mercer	0	0	Shelby	0	0
Metcalfe	27	0	Simpson	0	0
Monroe	3	1	Spencer	0	0
Montgomery	0	0	Taylor	3	0
Morgan	10	0	Todd	1	0
Muhlenberg	21	2	Trigg	0	0
Nelson	0	0	Trimble	0	0
Nicholas	0	0	Union	7	0
Ohio	18	5	Warren	1	0
Oldham	0	0	Washington	0	0
Owen	0	0	Wayne	18	0
Owsley	1	5	Webster	0	6
Pendleton	0	0	Whitley	46	3
Perry	31	0	Wolfe	3	0
Pike	158	0	Woodford	0	0